

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan



Even as we contend with deadly forces in our environment during natural disasters, it is also to the environment that we turn for the protection of lives and property. **Lia Bobonao**, 45 years old, learned this first-hand during her engagement with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) after Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) hit.

Lia and her family lived in Barangay Layo, Pinabacdao, Samar. Isolated in the uplands, they subsisted on rice, corn, and vegetables that they themselves planted. Only when they went down to the town centre could they buy meat, but more often than not they had no money to make the purchase anyway. They expected to make an annual sale of around PHP2,000 from an estimated 14 sacks-worth of rice harvest, but they also knew that that amount would not stretch far.

Still reeling from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the previous year, Lia and her family endured another round of destruction with the passage of Hagupit as they lost both house and crops.

Elsewhere in Pinabacdao, in Barangay Lale, a water system servicing much of the municipality was another casualty of the storm. The ILO helped to repair the system and restore thousands of residents' access to water. To ensure the solution's longevity, the ILO also helped rehabilitate the forest in the watershed that fed Lale's water supply.

Lia participated in the watershed rehabilitation programme and for 15 days of work received PHP260 daily minimum wage, three months' enrolment in social security and health insurance, a year of accident insurance, personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand tools.

Aside from the money her family could use to see to their daily needs, she welcomed the forest stewardship entrusted to them by the local government. Through seminars on topics such as proper planting and intercropping, Lia gained a keener appreciation of the environment as a source not only of livelihood but also of well-being.



*Climate-resilient
path to recovery*



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